

SMALLBURGH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For the Year 1908.

POPULATION AT 1901 CENSUS - 13,323.

BIRTHS.

There were 291 births during the year. This is equivalent to a birth-rate of 21·43 per 1000, and shows largely decreased rate on last year—23·16, and on the average of last 10 years—24·0.

SMALLBURGH SUB-DISTRICT	..	..	BOYS.	GIRLS.	ILLEGITIMATE.
STALHAM	,	..	36	47	4
NORTH WALSHAM	,	..	26	20	3
LUDHAM	,	..	42	28	3

DEATHS.

Deaths registered during the year numbered 177, equivalent to a rate of 12·29 per 1,000, a rate well below the average—14·5, and actually the lowest for the last ten years.

SMALLBURGH SUB-DISTRICT	..	..	..	58
STALHAM	,	..	..	45
NORTH WALSHAM	,	..	..	44
LUDHAM	,	..	..	30

There were 16 deaths in Smallburgh Workhouse.

23 Children died under 1 year of age, a rate of 79.03 per 1000 of births registered, a decrease on last year and well below the decennial average, but higher than some other districts in Norfolk.

Deaths from Zymotic disease numbered 6, a rate of 33·8 per 1000 of deaths registered in the district and ·44 per 1000 of estimated population. One death only occurred from Zymotic notifiable disease, Scarlet Fever.

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1908.

		BIRTHS.	DEATHS.	INFANTILE MORTALITY.
SMALLBURGH RURAL DISTRICT	..	21·43	12·29	82·47
ENGLAND AND WALES..	..	26·5	14·7	121
76 GREAT TOWNS ..	..	27·0	14·9	128
142 SMALLER TOWNS ..	..	26·0	14·0	124
RURAL ENGLAND AND WALES	..	26·2	14·7	110

Our low birth-rate is, in my opinion, due to the craze for "Life in Town" which seizes many of our young people, and also to the fact that many who would marry and settle in the country are unable to do so from want of good cottages with gardens, etc.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The total number of cases during the year was 51, compared with 27 in the previous year. This large increase was due almost entirely to 36 cases of Scarlet Fever occurring mostly in the Stalham Sub-District—26. The cases were almost all of a very mild type, and in my experience the mild cases, many of which escape notification, are responsible for much of the difficulty in stamping out an outbreak in Rural Districts.

Scarlet Fever, 36—SMALLBURGH SUB-DISTRICT	..	..	7
STALHAM	„	..	26
NORTH WALSHAM	„	..	2
LUDHAM	„	..	1
		—	36

Diphtheria, 9—SMALLBURGH SUB-DISTRICT	..	..	5
STALHAM	„	..	4
NORTH WALSHAM	„	..	0
LUDHAM	„	..	0
		—	9

Except one case, which was imported into the Smallburgh Workhouse, sanitary defects were found at the residences of all these cases.

Erysipelas—SMALLBURGH SUB-DISTRICT	..	..	1
STALHAM	„	..	0
NORTH WALSHAM	„	..	0
LUDHAM	„	..	2
		—	3

Enteric Fever—SMALLBURGH SUB-DISTRICT	..	..	0
STALHAM	„	..	2
NORTH WALSHAM	„	..	1
LUDHAM	„	..	0
		—	3

In two of these cases the drinking water was found to be unsatisfactory, in the third case the disease was believed to have been contracted away from home.

SCHOOLS CLOSED.

BACTON ..	April 5th to April 20th, for Influenza.
NEATISHEAD..	April 27th to May 8th, " "
EDINGTHORPE	May 1st to May 15th, " "
LESSINGHAM..	June 29th to September 20th, for Scarlet Fever.
HAPPISBURGH	June 29th to September 14th " "

The Rural District of Smallburgh extends over 57,632 acres, and the Sub-Districts of Stalham and Ludham contain many acres of water not included in this acreage.

The District is flat, and the soil mostly on the heavy side. The population is entirely an agricultural one, there being no works or factories in the District.

The housing accommodation is in many villages inadequate, and many of the houses are not suitable for the families residing therein; others would be condemned as over-crowded could other and larger houses be obtained for the evicted tenants.

Most cottages have some garden ground, or allotments can be had near at hand. Sewers and drains may be said to be practically non-existent, except in Stalham, where the main drain is composed of pipes of various diameters. Most house-drains run into a convenient open ditch or pond and soak away, or in some places, as Horning, find their way eventually into the river.

In the closets of cottages and schools the pail system has been adopted where possible. There is often found to be insufficient closet accommodation for groups of cottages, and when the closets are old-fashioned privies used by the inhabitants of two or three houses they are not emptied as frequently as they should be, since what is everyone's duty is no one's duty. I therefore advocate the pail closet whenever convenient and a closet for each cottage.

House refuse is disposed of by burying in the garden, or on the "muckup."

Water supply is entirely by wells, many of them very fleet and therefore more liable to contamination, but curiously enough in the more marshy districts round Stalham and Ludham we have had little or no disease traceable to bad water—in fact, only 3 cases have been notified during the year in the Sub-District of Ludham.

The Slaughter-houses, Dairies, Cowsheds, Bakehouses, etc., have been inspected.

Cowsheds and Dairies are not always all that could be desired. There are no underground Bakeries, and Slaughter-houses are well and cleanly kept, but it would be better if fewer carcases of animals "killed to save their lives" were taken in to be dressed.

The Schools are, on the whole, satisfactory as regards sanitary conditions and air space, and are greatly improved of late years. If the birth-rate continues to decline they are not likely to require enlarging.

I must again call attention to the want of an Isolation Hospital, or a cottage kept ready for the purpose, in which to isolate cases when it is impossible for satisfactory precautions to be taken at the patient's home.

A great step has been taken in effectually combating Diphtheria since the Sanitary Authority has sanctioned the bacteriological examination of the throats of those children who have had the disease, for proof of freedom from infection before they can be re-admitted to school.

B. D. Z. WRIGHT,

M. O. H.

COLTISHALL, 1909.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1908 and previous Years.

SMALLBURGH RURAL DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.	Deaths of Non-Residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		No.	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of Age.	No.	Rate per 1000 Births Registered.	No.				No.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1898	13676	372	27.04	53	142.7	228	16.3	14	...	...	228	16.3
1899	13638	362	26.6	43	118.7	211	15.1	14	...	...	211	15.1
1900	13600	347	24.8	42	121.0	213	15.2	13	...	...	213	15.2
1901	13223	351	26.3	46	131.0	212	15.1	10	...	...	212	15.1
1902	13285	326	24.6	39	119.0	163	12.3	13	...	...	163	12.3
1903	13250	344	25.2	46	104.05	208	15.6	21	...	...	208	15.6
1904	13220	231	17.02	39	168.08	195	14.07	11	...	...	195	14.07
1905	13200	310	23.7	24	77.13	185	14.2	12	...	...	185	14.2
1906	13335	290	21.74	23	79.31	175	13.12	11	...	...	175	13.12
1907	13464	318	23.61	28	88.05	189	14.03	8	...	...	189	14.03
Averages for years 1898-1907	13389	325	24.0	38	114.9	197	14.5	12	...	...	197	14.5
1908	13578	291	21.43	23	79.03	177	12.29	16	...	...	177	12.29

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water).	57,632	Total population at all ages—13,323	At Census of 1901.
		Number of inhabited houses—3,229.	
		Average number of persons per house—4.1.	

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District.	Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.	Other Institutions, the Deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District.
Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.		

Is the Union Workhouse within the District?—Yes.

TABLE II.

Vital Statistics of Separate Localities in 1908 and previous years.
SMALIBURGH RURAL DISTRICT.

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1908.
SMALLBURGH RURAL DISTRICT.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	At all Ages.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.					TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.				CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.	Stalham.	Walsham.	North Walsham.	
Small-pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.
Cholera ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	9	..	1	5	2	1	..	5	4	..	..
Erysipelas ..	3	..	..	..	..	3	..	1	..	..	2
Scarlet fever ..	36	..	3	27	5	1	..	7	26	2	1
Typhus fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.
Enteric fever ..	3	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	2	1
Relapsing fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.
Continued fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.
Puerperal fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.
Plague ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.
Totals	51	..	4	35	7	5	..	13	32	3	3
											No Isolation Hospital.

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1908.

SMALLBURGH RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS," WHETHER OCCURRING IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT.							DEATHS AT ALL AGES OF "RESIDENTS" BELONGING TO LOCALITIES, WHETHER OCCURRING IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT.					TOTAL DEATHS WHETHER OF "RESIDENTS" OR "NON-RESIDENTS" IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 & under 5.	5 & under 15.	15 & under 25.	25 & under 65.	65 & upwards.	Smallburgh.	Stalham.	N. Walsham.	Lundham.	Smallburgh Workhouse.	
Small pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet fever ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Whooping cough ..	3	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Croup ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever { Typhus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other continued ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Epidemic influenza ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
Cholera ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoea ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteritis ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Puerperal fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ..	11	..	..	1	1	8	1	5	2	2	2	1	..
Other Tuberculous diseases ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Cancer, malignant disease ..	15	..	..	..	1	6	8	7	2	4	2	..	..
Bronchitis ..	17	5	1	..	..	4	7	4	7	4	2	1	..
Pneumonia ..	3	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	..	2	..	..	..
Pleurisy ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other diseases of Respiratory organs ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Alcoholism {	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..
Cirrhosis of liver ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Venercal diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature birth ..	5	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	1
Diseases and accidents of parturition ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Heart diseases ..	21	..	..	1	1	4	15	3	5	8	5	1	..
Accidents ..	9	..	1	1	3	2	2	1	4	2	2	..	..
Suicides ..	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	1	..	..	..
All other causes ..	84	11	1	2	2	14	54	33	22	15	14	11	..
All causes ..	177	23	6	5	9	42	92	58	45	44	30	16	..

TABLE V.

SMALLBURGH RURAL DISTRICT.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1908.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.			Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
All Causes { Certified ...	...	...	7	...	2	3	12	1	4	1	1	...	2	1	...	1	...	23
Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Common Infectious Diseases	{ Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Chicken-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diarrhoeal Diseases	{ Diarrhoea, all forms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Enteritis, Muco-enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Gastro-enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wasting Diseases	{ Premature Birth	...	3	...	2	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
	Congenital Defects	...	1	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Injury at Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Want of Breast Milk, Starvation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	...	3	...	...	2	5	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Tubercul's Diseases	{ Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Tuberculous Peritonitis :	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Tabes Mesenterica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Causes	{ Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2
	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	4
	Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Other Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
		7	...	2	3	12	1	4	1	1	...	2	1	...	1	...	...	23

District (or sub-division) of Smallburgh.

Population, estimated to middle of 1908, 13,578.

Births in the year { legitimate—270,
illegitimate—21.Deaths in the year of { legitimate infants—22,
illegitimate infants—1.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages—177.

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1908,

FOR THE

RURAL DISTRICT OF SMALLBURGH,

on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces, and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, and WORKPLACES.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories	6	...	...
(Including Factory Laundries.) ...			
Workshops	23	1	...
(Including Workshop Laundries.) ...			
Workplaces	4	...	...
Total	33	1	...

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, and WORKPLACES.

Particulars.	Number of Defects,			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of cleanliness	3	2	...	...
Want of ventilation ... ... ...	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding ... ... ...	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors ...	...	...	...	...
Other nuisances ...	...	...	...	...
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient ...	...	...	...	...
unsuitable or defective ...	...	...	...	...
not separate for sexes ...	...	...	...	...
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ...	No underground bakehouses.			...
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100) ...	...	...	...	...
Other offences ...	...	...	...	...
Total	3	2	...	...

3.—HOMEWORK. *Nil.*

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.	Number.
9 Bakehouses (not underground)	9
1 Laundry	1
3 Dressmakers	3
7 Shops and Mills	7
13 Workshops...	13
Total number of Workshops on Register ...	33

5.—OTHER MATTERS. *Nil.*

SMALLBURGH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT

For the Year 1908.

MY LORD, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE SMALLBURGH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,

I hereby submit for your perusal the Report of duties that have been attended to by me, also the report of the sanitary condition of the District for the year 1908.

Cases reported
to the Council.

During that period I reported to the Council forty-nine different nuisances arising from various sources. These Reports were dealt with by the Council instructing their Clerk to inform the various owners and occupiers requesting them to abate the same. These nuisances have, in nearly all instances, been dealt with, and improvements have been made without further proceedings being taken.

Sanitary
Progress.

As in previous years, a great amount of sanitary improvement has been achieved at various properties throughout the district, especially so to the drains of large dwelling-houses. A great many of these improvements I have succeeded in getting done without reporting them to the Council. I don't find the same amount of petty nuisances existing on cottage premises as formerly. The greatest trouble I have is with a great many occupiers of cottages; they will build pigs' houses too near their dwellings, although in most instances they have plenty of garden space at a reasonable distance away.

Infectious
Cases.

During the year 54 cases of Infectious Diseases have been notified, viz.:—

Scarlet Fever	..	36	..	29 cases more than the previous year.
Diphtheria	..	9	..	3 „ less „ „
Typhoid	..	3	..	2 „ „ „ „
Erysipelas	..	3	..	being the same number as last year.

Only 1 death occurred in respect of the foregoing cases, viz., that of a little girl, aged 3 years, at East Ruston. Of the 36 cases of Scarlet Fever, 2 occurred in Bacton, 5 at East Ruston, 16 at Happisburgh, 1 at Hoveton, 3 at Smallburgh, and 2 at Soley. One case at Bacton and 1 at Soley were imported cases. Lessingham and Happisburgh Schools were closed for several weeks. Both Schools were thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Most of the drains on the Lessingham premises were re-constructed, and good improvements made. The latrines are very near to the Schools: it would have been better could they have been built further away. This, at present, is impossible, as they are built on the furthest extent of the School property. The parish of Happisburgh suffered very seriously owing to the infectious outbreak occurring at the beginning of the season, when many visitors were expected, and several had previously arranged for rooms, only to cancel their arrangements when the outbreak became known. It was thought that a family named Grimmer was the cause of the spreading of the disease. The patients having a very mild attack, the mother did not think it necessary to have medical attention to her children. From information I received, I informed the Medical Officer of Health, and we found in visiting several cottages many cases suspicious of Scarlet Fever had occurred amongst the occupiers in the immediate neighbourhood some time before the cases were notified at Happisburgh. Of the 9 cases of Diphtheria, 2 occurred at East Ruston. The cottage was found to be overcrowded. The Council hired a cottage to isolate the patients in, with other patients of the same family who were suffering from Scarlet Fever. Three cases occurred at Soley, where I found the drains to a new house very unsatisfactory, and the plumbers' work had been badly done, leaving leaky joints. I think all Inspectors should be supplied with a good smoke machine, and that drains to all new houses ought to be thoroughly tested before the builder is allowed to cover them up. One case occurred at Smallburgh Workhouse. That was an imported one. One case occurred at Stalham. The drinking water was bad, and the drains defective; and the other two cases occurred at Worstead and Tunstead. The 3 cases of Typhoid occurred in the parishes of Bacton, East Ruston, and Palling. The drinking water was found to be bad in the Bacton and East Ruston cases. No account could be given for the Palling case. The 3 cases of Erysipelas occurred in Catfield, Hoveton, and Worstead.

During the year 12 samples of Water were sent to Mr. Sutton for analysis, 11 samples for chemical, and 1 for bacteriological examination. This is the smallest number of samples I have taken for any one year. During my 10 years' inspectorship 25 to 32 has been the usual annual number. Four samples of Water were taken from new houses, three certificates were granted, and one deferred. Five samples were taken from wells on premises where Diphtheria and Typhoid were notified, and were all condemned by Mr. Sutton as unfit for drinking purposes. Three samples were sent from wells on premises in respect of which complaints had been made. Two of these samples were passed as fit for drinking purposes. One taken from a well near the sea was condemned. I have not received any complaint during the year respecting the scarcity of water supply.

Eight Wells have been cleaned out.

Three Wells covered in and pumps fixed.

Five Wells cleaned out, repaired, and covered over with doors.

Four new Wells made beside those to new houses.

Three Wells closed.

During the year 7 cases of Overcrowding have been reported. Two of the occupiers have moved out of the district. One occupier reduced the number of inmates so as to satisfy the Council, and 4 occupiers have at present been unable to obtain larger cottages. In some of the parishes in the district there is a great scarcity of cottage accommodation, especially for large families. I also find that there are some large families still living in very small cottages in nearly all the parishes in the district, and it is impossible for them to find dwellings suitable for their accommodation. Some of the occupiers of cottages, I regret to say, do not give their respective landlords much encouragement to help them, owing to their destructive and dirty habits to the property.

Four cottages have been condemned as unfit for habitation. Two of these have been repaired and made tenantable. The other two are still occupied, and nothing has been done to them at present. There are many more cottages that ought to be condemned but for the fact that other cottage accommodation is unavailable.

I have inspected 14 Slaughter-houses periodically throughout the year and found them generally clean and healthy. I had occasion to caution 1 butcher about the dirty state of the slaughter-house and meat shop walls.

Slaughter-houses.

I have inspected 15 Cowsheds and Dairies during the year, and have found them generally clean. I regret to say that owing to my illness I have been unable to present to the Council a complete Report of every cowshed in the district, stating the number of cows kept, the air-space, light, ventilation, floors, drainage, and water supply. I will endeavour to have the Report completed as soon as possible before the date of the new regulations coming into effect.

Cowsheds and
Dairies.

Six pigs' houses removed.

Nuisances
abated and
New Privies
built.

Four fowls' houses removed.

Eighteen privies converted into dry-earth pail closets.

Sixteen new privies built.

Five cesspools repaired and covered.

My Lord, Ladies, and Gentlemen, I thank you kindly for the assistance you have always given me, and also for the encouragement you have given me in my work. I also wish to thank the Clerk for his advice and kindness, which he has always shewn me when I have approached him in sanitary business. I also wish to thank Dr. Wright, the Medical Officer of Health, for his great assistance and the help he has rendered to me in conveying me about the district in his motor during the outbreak of fever in the summer months.

I am, my Lord, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

E. A. DALE,
Inspector Smallburgh Rural District Council.

March, 1909.

SMALLBURGH

Rural District Council.



**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND INSPECTOR'S REPORTS**

For the Year 1908.